



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

August 29, 2018

Mr. Austin Evers
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
foia@americanoversight.org

Re: DOJ-2017-003814 (PAO)
VRB:DRH:ND

Dear Mr. Evers:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act request (FOIA) made via the Office of Information Policy FOIAonline Portal and received in this Office on April 28, 2017, in which you requested, in parts (1) through (3) of your request, records concerning the use of a personal email account to conduct Department business by the Director of Public Affairs, Sarah Isgur Flores, and, in parts (4) and (5) of your request, records evidencing Ms. Flores' participation in training regarding the requirements of the Federal Records Act, including a copy of the training provided. This response is made on behalf of the Office of Public Affairs.

Please be advised that a search has been conducted in the Office of Public Affairs, and 180 pages containing records responsive to your request were located. I have determined that 112 pages appropriate for release with excisions made pursuant to Exemptions 5 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5) and (b)(6). Exemption 5 pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege. Exemption 6 pertains to information the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties. Please note that some of the enclosed pages contain records that are not responsive to your request; these non-responsive records have not been processed, and are marked accordingly. Additionally, sixty-eight pages containing records responsive to your request are being withheld in full pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

As is evident from the enclosed records, Ms. Flores forwarded emails sent to her personal account to her official Department of Justice email account, including through an automatic forward. As such, all of these emails were located pursuant to our search of Ms. Flores' official Department of Justice email account.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552 (2012 & Supp. V 2017). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Douglas Hibbard, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 205300001; telephone at 202-514-3642; or facsimile at 202-514-1009.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal at <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,



Vanessa R. Brinkmann
Senior Counsel

Enclosures

From: Shawna Thomas <shawna.thomas@vice.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Follow up
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 09:19:33 EST
Attachments:

Thanks.

On 2 March 2017 at 07:57, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Sessions answered honestly and correctly the questions that he was asked by Franken and Leahy in written testimony. He did not speak to any Russian officials as a surrogate of the campaign nor any Russian official about the 2016 campaign.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:siflores@jmd.usdoj.gov-]
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Shawna Thomas <shawna.thomas@vice.com>; Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Follow up

It wasn't false

From: Shawna Thomas [mailto:shawna.thomas@vice.com-]
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 7:50 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Follow up

Thanks.

Are you concerned about his testimony in his confirmation hearing being false?

Isn't that perjury?

Shawna Thomas

DC Bureau Chief - Vice News

c: (b)(6)

@shawna

On Mar 2, 2017, at 6:39 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b)(6)> wrote:

cc'ing my do one so you have it.

I think its important to note that this was in the regular course of his work on armed services. He met 25 times with ambassadors last year. The day after this meeting, he met with the Ukrainian ambassador. The meeting was in his senate office with two defense policy staffers--meaning, this wasn't some secret. It was in the Russell building.

We aren't going to do any interviews at this point.

He's said the entire time (on the record)--if he needs to recuse himself from something he will.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 12:58 AM, Shawna Thomas <shawna.thomas@vice.com> wrote:

1. I'm going to assume the NBC Alert about the AG meeting with the Russian Ambassador during the campaign is accurate but is there anything about the reporting I've seen thus far that you want to push back on?
2. Let's say I pitched you on an interview where Shane Smith, my big big boss, interviews the Attorney General. What would be your reaction to that?
3. Is the AG going to recuse himself from any involvement in the federal investigation into Russia influencing the election?
4. Will the AG resign?
5. If you need me to send this email to a DOJ email address, please tell me.

Shawna Thomas

DC Bureau Chief - Vice News

c: (b)(6)

@shawna

On Mar 2, 2017, at 12:43 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b)(6)> wrote:

Yeah

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 12:39 AM -0500, "Shawna Thomas" <shawna.thomas@vice.com> wrote:

But are you sessions' Spox right now?

Shawna Thomas
DC Bureau Chief - Vice News
c (b) (6)
@shawna

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

--

SHAWNA THOMAS

DC Bureau Chief, Vice News

VICE MEDIA LLC

49 South 2nd Street

Brooklyn, NY 11249

w. 202-753-6296 c: (b) (6)

@shawna

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Thank you.

From: jpollak@breitbart.com
<jpollak@breitbart.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 00:26:57 EST
Attachments:

OK thanks, let me know if there is more I can do.

J

-----Original Message-----

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 12:21am
To: "jpollak@breitbart.com" <jpollak@breitbart.com>
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions

Unsure--I have told others about Ukrainian meeting. May not have told wapo. The list they use is from a statement I gave them.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 2, 2017, at 12:04 AM, "jpollak@breitbart.com" <jpollak@breitbart.com> wrote:

Question

(on background)

Did WaPo know about the Ukrainian ambassador meeting from the list, and just decline to mention it?

J

-----Original Message-----

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11:54pm
To: "jpollak@breitbart.com" <jpollak@breitbart.com>
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions

This is great. Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2017, at 11:52 PM, "jpollak@breitbart.com" <jpollak@breitbart.com> wrote:

Up:

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/03/01/jeff-sessions-fake-news-washington-post-misquote-used-target/>

J

-----Original Message-----

From: "Sarah Isgur Flores" <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 10:42pm
To: "Joel B. Pollak" <jpollak@breitbart.com>
Cc: "Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions

CC'ing DOJ email. Anything you can do to push back on the absurdity. Forwarding you our stuff so far

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 10:36 PM -0500, "Joel B. Pollak" <jpollak@breitbart.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah Not sure of your DOJ address. Can I help? If so, how? J Sent from my iPhone

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
To: Mark Halperin
<(b) (6)>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re:
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 06:36:00 EST
Attachments:

what tweet?

his senate staff knew about the meetings. it was scheduled by his scheduler, attended by two defense policy staffers. it was in the russell building. this wasn't some secret thing. he met with the Ukrainian ambassador the next day to give you some idea of the context.

he has a full schedule today as AG.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 6:27 AM, Mark Halperin <(b) (6)> wrote:

On mj now. The day at 7am

Help please

On Mar 2, 2017, at 6:23 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

You already on?

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 4:41 AM -0500, "Mark Halperin" <(b) (6)> wrote:

Good morning!

You around, counselor?

I'm on Morning Joe and Today and could use some help.

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b)(6)
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fwd: Need by cob
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 00:07:53 EST
Attachments:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bockhorn, Lee F. (OPA) <Lee.F.Bockhorn@usdoj.gov>
Date: Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 1:43 PM
Subject: RE: Need by cob
To: Sarah Isgur Flores (b)(6) , "Bockhorn, Lee F. (OPA)" <lee.f.
bockhorn@usdoj.gov>
Cc: "Carr, Peter (OPA)" <peter.carr@usdoj.gov>

((b)(5))

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:35 PM
To: Bockhorn, Lee F. (OPA) <lee.f.bockhorn@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Carr, Peter (OPA) <peter.carr@usdoj.gov>

Subject: Re: Need by cob

((b)(5))

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 11:45 AM -0500, "Bockhorn, Lee F. (OPA)" <Lee.F.Bockhorn@usdoj.gov> wrote:

More thoughts on this ... let me know if you see any problems in the framework I sent earlier, or have any more info on the event.

(b)(5)

From: Bockhorn, Lee F. (OPA)
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:48 AM
To: 'Sarah Isgur Flores' <(b)(6)>
Cc: Carr, Peter (OPA) <Peter.Carr@usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: Need by cob

Any more details on the event itself? (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:15 AM
To: lee.f.bockhorn@usdoj.gov
Cc: Carr, Peter (OPA) <Peter.Carr@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Need by cob

Oops sent without Peter and this part--

2-3 sentences:

(b)(5)

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 10:13 AM -0500, "Sarah Isgur Flores" <(b) (6)> wrote:

(b) (5)



--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

From: jpollak@breitbart.com
<jpollak@breitbart.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 00:00:40 EST
Attachments:

The full context of the exchange with Franken is very important.

He was never asked whether there was any contact.

He was asked about ongoing contacts in the context of the "dossier" claims and he answered truthfully.

J

-----Original Message-----

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11:54pm
To: "jpollak@breitbart.com" <jpollak@breitbart.com>
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions

This is great. Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2017, at 11:52 PM, "jpollak@breitbart.com" <jpollak@breitbart.com> wrote:

Up:

<http://www.breitbart.com/big-government/2017/03/01/jeff-sessions-fake-news-washington-post-misquote-used-target/>

J

-----Original Message-----

From: "Sarah Isgur Flores" <(b) (6)>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 10:42pm
To: "Joel B. Pollak" <jpollak@breitbart.com>
Cc: "Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Help for Sessions

CC'ing DOJ email. Anything you can do to push back on the absurdity. Forwarding you our stuff so far

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 10:36 PM -0500, "Joel B. Pollak" <jpollak@breitbart.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah Not sure of your DOJ address. Can I help? If so, how? J Sent from my iPhone

From: Horwitz, Sari <sari.horwitz@washpost.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Post story
Date: Wed Mar 01 2017 17:10:54 EST
Attachments:

Okay, that would be great, Sarah.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2017 4:49 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Subject: RE: Post story

I talked to the DAG and in theory he'd be fine talking to you on Friday am. (Just got off phone w matt too) But wont be able to confirm until tomorrow.

From: Horwitz, Sari [mailto:Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 3:35 PM
To: sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov
Subject: Post story

Hi Sarah,

Great to meet you yesterday! Any chance that we can talk to the AG – or another senior DOJ official – today or tomorrow for our piece on Sessions's first three weeks?

Thanks much for anything you can do on this front.

Sari

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto: (b) (6)]

Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:38 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Subject: Re: Meeting

In theory yes--but I've been in and out of other offices all day.

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 3:04 PM -0500, "Horwitz, Sari" <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com> wrote:
No problem. Are you in your DOJ office now?

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Subject: Re: Meeting

Hey--sorry I keep being in and out of things here. Sure! Please stop by. I just need to be in another meeting at 430 if you don't mind it being a little short this time.

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 2:34 PM -0500, "Horwitz, Sari" <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com> wrote:
Sarah, can Matt and I just pop in and say hello to you around 4?
Sari

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:s(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:33 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Subject: Re: Meeting

I've got to meet with IT and get sworn in this afternoon--ugh! But should be around after 4. Would that work?

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 11:13 AM -0500, "Horwitz, Sari" <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

I was at Sessions's speech today and I heard you were there. Is there any chance we could meet today? Matt and I are working on a story about Session's first weeks at DOJ and we'd love to talk to you and possibly some senior officials for the piece.

Thanks much,

Sari

Sari Horwitz

Washington Post Staff Writer

(202) 334-7284

Cell: (b) (6)

@sarihorwitz

Bio and stories: wapo.st/sarihorwitz

From: Gmail Team
<forwarding-noreply@google.com>
To: sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: (#132496225) Gmail Forwarding Confirmation - Receive Mail from
(b) (6)
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 23:04:41 EST
Attachments:

(b) (6) has requested to automatically forward mail
to your email
address sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov.
Confirmation code: 132496225

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your address,
please click the link below to confirm the request:

(b) (6)

If you click the link and it appears to be broken, please copy and paste it
into a new browser window. If you aren't able to access the link, you
can send the confirmation code
132496225 to (b) (6)

Thanks for using Gmail!

Sincerely,

The Gmail Team

If you do not approve of this request, no further action is required.
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clicked the link, but you do not want to allow (b) (6) to
automatically forward messages to your address, click this link to cancel this
verification:
(b) (6)

To learn more about why you might have received this message, please
visit: <http://support.google.com/mail/bin/answer.py?answer=184973>.

Please do not respond to this message. If you'd like to contact the
Google.com Team, please log in to your account and click 'Help' at

the top of any page. Then, click 'Contact Us' along the bottom of the Help Center.

From: Giaimo, Melissa <melissa.giaimo@cnn.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: CNN / New Day: Sarah Isgur Flores (Fri, 8A)
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 23:01:49 EST
Attachments:

Thanks for letting me know, Sarah. You're welcome in future.

MELISSA GIAIMO
DC Editorial Producer "NEW DAY"
+(b) (6) cell
+1-202-351-4406 work
melissa.giaimo@turner.com

On Mar 2, 2017, at 8:46 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Sorry about that! I won't be able to join tomorrow.

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:37 PM, Giaimo, Melissa <Melissa.Giaimo@cnn.com> wrote:

Thanks, Anna!!!

Sarah, didn't hear back from DOJ press. Would you like to join us tomorrow?

MELISSA GIAIMO
DC Editorial Producer "NEW DAY"
+(b) (6) cell
+1-202-351-4406 work
melissa.giaimo@turner.com

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:20 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

cc'ed here

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 3:08 PM, Giaimo, Melissa <Melissa.Giaimo@cnn.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Sorry, I don't have your new DOJ e-mail. Can you give me your official?

We really enjoyed having you on the show during the confirmation process. You're welcome any time!

From: Giaimo, Melissa
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 3:07 PM
To: press@usdoj.gov
Subject: CNN / New Day: Sarah Isgur Flores (Fri, 8A)

Hello,

I'm writing to request an interview with Sarah Isgur Flores for CNN's morning show.

As coverage focuses on AG Sessions, can Sarah join us on the show tomorrow to clarify the facts to our viewers?

The hit-time would be 8A. We would be happy to send a crew.

Kind Regards,

Melissa

<image001.png>

MELISSA GIAIMO

DC Editorial Producer "NEW DAY"

+**(b) (6)** cell

+1-202-351-4406 work

melissa.giaimo@turner.com

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
To: Murray, Andrew
<andrew.murray@foxnews.com>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Interview with "Fox & Friends" Tomorrow?
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:31:40 EST
Attachments:

cc'ing my DOJ account as well

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 7:28 PM, Murray, Andrew <Andrew.Murray@foxnews.com> wrote:

Understood! If he is available next week we would be willing to send an anchor to D.C. for an in-person taped discussion.

Thanks,

Andrew Murray

Producer, Politics

"Fox & Friends"

Fox News Channel

1211 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10036

Office: (212) 301-3683

Cell # (b) (6)

Cell # (b) (6)

FAX: (212) 301-3421

Email: andrew.murray@foxnews.-com

@andrewmurray1

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:17 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) [REDACTED] wrote:

sorry--we need sleep tomorrow am:)

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 4:55 PM, Murray, Andrew <Andrew.Murray@foxnews.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Please let us know if we can schedule Attorney General Jeff Sessions to appear on "Fox & Friends" tomorrow (Friday).

Thanks in advance,

Andrew Murray

Producer, Politics

"Fox & Friends"

Fox News Channel

1211 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor

New York, NY 10036

Office: (212) 301-3683

Cell # (b) (6) [REDACTED]

Cell # (b) (6) [REDACTED]

FAX: (212) 301-3421

Email: andrew.murray@foxnews.com

@andrewmurray1

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

From: Merica, Dan <dan.merica@cnn.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Looking for comment on story re: Session attending cocktail party with Kislyak
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:47:36 EST
Attachments:

Thanks Sarah.

From: "Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)" <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Date: Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 7:26 PM
To: "Merica, Dan" <dan.merica@cnn.com>
Subject: RE: Looking for comment on story re: Session attending cocktail party with Kislyak

She can't even confirm the ambassador was in the room. But if he was, he didn't meet the Senator as far as she knows and she was with him throughout the hold room time. She remembered many other people who were there and specific conversations with them as well.

From: Merica, Dan [mailto:dan.merica@cnn.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2017 7:24 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b)(6)>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Looking for comment on story re: Session attending cocktail party with Kislyak

Ok. Thanks for the response. So, to be clear, you and the LD are saying you don't believe the two met in the room?

And thanks for the note on the timing. The group called it a cocktail party like gathering.

Fairer to call it a hold before the speech.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:17 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b)(6)> wrote:

My understanding is that this was a noon event. There was no cocktail anything. There was a hold

room before the speech.

The LD who was staffing Sessions remembered talking to several specific ambassadors and other guests in the holding room. She believed that she met all the ambassadors in the room and would have recognized him. But obviously he could have come late or she could have missed him but does not believe he would have met Sessions at that point.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 6:59 PM, Merica, Dan <dan.merica@cnn.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Two event organizers from The National Interest tell CNN that then-Sen. Sessions attended a cocktail party at The Mayflower Hotel on April 27, 2016 with Donald Trump and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak.

The cocktail party was less than 20 people, the organizers said and preceded a speech Trump gave to the group.

A few questions for the story we plan to post:

- Did Sessions and Kislyak talk during the cocktail party?
- Did Sessions attend the event as a senator or, since it was before a speech Trump gave to the group, as a Trump adviser?

Feel free to call me at (b)(6) or email me here for this story.

Thanks,

Dan

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Demetri Sevastopulo (Financial Times· Washington Bureau Chief) <demetri.sevastopulo@ft.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b)(6)
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA) <sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re:
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:25:01 EST
Attachments:

No worries, Thanks Sarah. Congrats on your new gig. (b)(6)

Been a while since we emailed back and forth about Carly but we obviously never managed to meet.

Demetri

Mobile: (b)(6)

Demetri Sevastopulo

Washington Bureau Chief, Financial Times

Twitter· Instagram· Facebook· Photography

PGP: 925E 2678 A80E 2D47 2AEB 7221 2177 31C5 91D2 ACEC

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 7:23 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b)(6)> wrote:

Sorry I dropped the ball here! cc'ing DOj account

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 10:58 AM, Demetri Sevastopulo (Financial Times· Washington Bureau Chief) <demetri.sevastopulo@ft.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah - Do you have any new comment on the situation? Our deadline is 12.30pm so want to make sure we have the latest. Will Sen Sessions recuse himself, as a growing number of Republicans are suggesting he should?

Has he discussed the case with FBI/DOJ investigators?

Demetri

Mobile: +(b)(6)

Demetri Sevastopulo

Washington Bureau Chief, Financial Times

Twitter · Instagram · Facebook · Photo-raphy

PGP: 925E 2678 A80E 2D47 2AEB 7221 2177 31C5 91D2 ACEC

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b)(6)
@whignewtons

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From: Yaron, Eldad <eldad.yaron@foxnews.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) >
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: are you available today?
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:39:55 EST
Attachments:

Thanks much

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:21 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

not sure yet about whether I'm doing anything tomorrow. will let you know if I do. cc'ing DOJ account.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:36 AM, Yaron, Eldad <Eldad.Yaron@foxnews.com> wrote:

I'd love to do this tomorrow – just let me know. it would be at 5pm-ish.

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Yaron, Eldad <Eldad.Yaron@FOXNEWS.COM>
Subject: Re: are you available today?

Not today. Might be tomorrow.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:19 AM -0500, "Yaron, Eldad" <Eldad.Yaron@foxnews.com> wrote:

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) [REDACTED]
To: Kanneth, Polson
<polson.kanneth@turner.com>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Hey---
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:23:42 EST
Attachments:

cc'ed

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 10:42 AM, Kanneth, Polson <Polson.Kanneth@turner.com> wrote:

What's your official email address at Justice?

Sending you a formal request for the AG

Polson Kanneth
Senior Editorial Producer
State of the Union with Jake Tapper
<http://www.cnn.com/SOTU>
(b) (6) [REDACTED] mobile
polson.kanneth@cnn.com

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) [REDACTED]
@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) [REDACTED]
To: Jon Swaine <jon.swaine@theguardian.com>
Cc: Carr, Peter (OPA)
<peter.carr@usdoj.gov>; Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Guardian / AG Sessions
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:23:03 EST
Attachments:

It would violate DOJ policy to comment on this because it could potentially confirm or deny the existence of an investigation. cc'ing DOJ account.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:26 AM, Jon Swaine <jon.swaine@theguardian.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah and Peter

Has Jeff Sessions ever spoken or corresponded with any FBI official about the bureau's ongoing investigation into alleged contacts between Russia and Donald Trump's presidential campaign?

We wondered if the subject had come up in conversation with Director James Comey or another FBI staff member, either when Mr. Sessions was a US Senator or in his current job.

Thanks and all best,

Jon
The Guardian

--

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Talarico, Julie
<julie.talarico@foxnews.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) >
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: This morning?
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:26:14 EST
Attachments:

Totally fine, I understand! Please let me know if you change your mind!

Julie Talarico
Booker, America's Newsroom
202-412-6825

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:19 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) > wrote:

at this point, i'll probably stay off--but yall are my first choice if I do decide to go out tomorrow. sorry ive been mia!

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 4:13 PM, Talarico, Julie <Julie.Talarico@foxnews.com> wrote:

Hi!

I know you've been slammed today but any chance anything has changed for tomorrow? Would love to get you on with Shannon.

Julie Talarico
Booker, America's Newsroom
(b) (6)

On Mar 2, 2017, at 6:37 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6) > wrote:

at this point, I'm not doing tv. will let you know if that changes.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 5:56 AM, Talarico, Julie <Julie.Talarico@foxnews.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah--

Good morning! Any chance you're around at 10am this morning to join us on newsroom? To talk about this AG Sessions story. Let me know as soon as possible. Thanks!

Julie Talarico

Booker, America's Newsroom

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

@whignewtons

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
To: Lieberman, Marc E. <mlp@cbsnews.com>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: 60 Minutes request
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:21:47 EST
Attachments:

I think we're going to pass on this for now. But will keep yall in mind for future. cc'ing DOJ account.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:30 AM, Lieberman, Marc E. <MLP@cbsnews.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

I know we were talking about meeting on the 14th but I'd like to see if we could chat later today about the potential Attorney General interview with Bill Whitaker. Given the news, I thought you might want to consider doing the interview for air this Sunday. It would be a chance to confront the Russia news head on, make the definitive statement about it on 60 Minutes, and then turn the page and discuss with us the priorities of the department under his leadership. I'm getting on a flight to New York now but I'll be available to talk this afternoon. I'll check in again when I land.

Thanks,
Marc

On Feb 10, 2017, at 10:34 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

that would be fantastic!

On Fri, Feb 10, 2017 at 9:30 AM, Lieberman, Marc E. <MLP@cbsnews.com> wrote:

Thanks for getting back to me. I will be in DC on March 14th. I can check in ahead of that visit to see if you might have time to meet briefly when I am in town.

Best,
Marc

On Feb 10, 2017, at 9:22 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

Thanks for the request. We aren't accepting any interviews just yet--but will let you know when that changes.

S

On Thu, Feb 9, 2017 at 11:29 AM, Lieberman, Marc E. <MLP@cbsnews.com> wrote:

Sarah,

I am a producer for 60 Minutes correspondent Bill Whitaker. Now that the confirmation process for Attorney General Sessions has concluded and he has been sworn in, we would like to request an interview as the centerpiece of a 60 Minutes story that would be similar in format to past stories we have done with top government officials. Given the heat of the rhetoric on Capitol Hill in recent weeks, I think it's safe to say many Americans have questions about the direction the new Attorney General plans to set for the Justice Department. This would be an opportunity for him to turn the page and share with the American public his vision and thoughts about key issues that confront our nation and will cross his desk. I hope we can arrange a phone call to begin a conversation about this possibility. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc Lieberman

Marc Lieberman | Producer | 60 Minutes | w: 212-975-6385 c: (b) (6) [REDACTED] mlp@cbsnews.com

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) [REDACTED]
@whignewtons

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) [REDACTED]
@whignewtons

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
To: Marcus, Ruth <ruth.marcus@washpost.com>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: oped invitation
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:20:14 EST
Attachments:

thanks I think we'll pass for now

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 12:24 PM, Marcus, Ruth <Ruth.Marcus@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah, I know you are drinking from the firehose daily, and today especially. If the attorney general would like to write an oped on the subject du jour please consider the door open here at The Washington Post. I'm at (b) (6). Thanks,

Ruth

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
To: Andrew Kaczynski
<(b) (6)>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Sessions Lynch special prosecutor
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:20:41 EST
Attachments:

sorry I missed this earlier. cc'ing DOJ account

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:37 AM, Andrew Kaczynski <(b) (6)> wrote:

Hey we are going to post bit about call a special prosecutor in November. Thought it made sense to just send the copy because it's largely document based

During the 2016 campaign, Jeff Sessions called on then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch to recuse herself from the investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server and to appoint a special prosecutor in the case.

The FoxNews.com op-ed, which was co-written with four other Donald Trump campaign surrogates including Rudy Giuliani, specifically cited Lynch's meeting with former President Bill Clinton on a tarmac in Phoenix as grounds for her recusal.

Sessions, now the attorney general, is facing calls from Democrats and Republicans to recuse himself from matters related to Russia's interference in the 2016 election after it was revealed on Wednesday that he did not disclose meetings last year with the Russian ambassador during his confirmation hearing.

Sessions said told Senators in his hearing he had not had any contacts with the Russians.

"Attorney General Lynch and former President Clinton met on the Phoenix, Arizona tarmac days before Secretary Clinton was to be interviewed by the FBI for possible criminal activity," the November 2016 op-ed reads.

The co-authors continued, "General Lynch never recused herself from decisions on the Clinton investigation after her self-admitted 'mistake,' as it has also been reported that she continues to deny the FBI the authority to convene a Grand Jury, which is necessary for any meaningful investigation."

"Recusal is a formal process," the op-ed further said. "It is a written document specifically describing the scope of the recusal and designating the official in charge of the recused matter. If General Lynch went through the proper procedure for recusal, she has not publicly shared it.

"Because of our grave concern for integrity in government we ask for a Special Counsel," the op-ed stated. "When a high public official is accused of serious wrongdoing and there is a sufficient factual predicate to investigate, it is imperative the investigation be thorough, with dispatch and without partisanship.'

Sessions was asked about his op-ed in a questionnaire submitted to him by Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy. The questionnaire asked, "By the recusal standard that you put forth in that op-ed, is it fair to expect you to recuse yourself from any matters regarding Mr. Trump or his finances?"

In his written response, Sessions said, "There are significant differences between the issue discussed in the op-ed referenced above and the broad hypothetical presented regarding an investigation into the President. Secretary Clinton was under investigation at the time Attorney General Lynch met with President Clinton. If merely being a supporter of the President's during the campaign warranted recusal from involvement in any matter involving him, then most typical presidential appointees would be unable to conduct their duties.

"I am not aware of a basis to recuse myself from such matters. If a specific matter arose where I believed my impartiality might reasonably be questioned, I would consult with Department ethics officials regarding the most appropriate way to proceed. As I made clear at my confirmation hearing, I will always be fair and work within the law and the established procedures of the Department."

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

From: Chuck Ross <chuck@dailycaller.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) >
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Question on tonight's story -- Daily Caller
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 14:25:17 EST
Attachments:

Sarah,
Can you call me at (b) (6) if you get a chance.

I'm looking at Sessions meetings with Ukraine's ambassador the day before the meeting with Kislyak.
I'm wondering if the meetings revolved around the cease fire negotiations going on at that time.

Thanks for any help

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 10:27 AM, Chuck Ross <chuck@dailycaller.com> wrote:

Sarah,
Wondering if you have information on whether AG Sessions met with this ambassador or talked to him at any point before 2016.

Thanks

Chuck Ross
The Daily Caller
(b) (6)

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 11:50 PM, Chuck Ross <chuck@dailycaller.com> wrote:

Yeah it's weird; thanks again.

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 11:45 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) > wrote:

It was in his office. Unclear why WSJ didn't report that correctly.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 12:39 AM -0500, "Chuck Ross" <chuck@dailycaller.com> wrote:

Sorry, I was basing my question off of an inconsistency between the WaPo report and Wall Street Journal.

WSJ reported that the September exchange was a phone call. WaPo says an office meeting. Are you able to clarify which it was?

Thanks again

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 11:32 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

I'm not sure I understand. Disclose to who?

From: Chuck Ross <chuck@dailycaller.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11:35 PM
Subject: Question on tonight's story -- Daily Caller
To: <(b) (6)>

Hi Sarah,

Sorry I don't have your DOJ email; if needed, please feel free to respond from it.

I'm sort of scratching my head over the WaPo piece because there seem to be some information gaps.

It has me wondering -- did AG Sessions disclose these two contacts to anyone at DOJ?

Thanks for any help,
Chuck Ross
The Daily Caller

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
To: Gaimo, Melissa
<melissa.gaimo@cnn.com>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: FW: CNN / New Day: Sarah Isgur Flores (Fri, 8A)
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 19:19:22 EST
Attachments: image001.png

cc'ed here

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 3:08 PM, Gaimo, Melissa <Melissa.Gaimo@cnn.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Sorry, I don't have your new DOJ e-mail. Can you give me your official?

We really enjoyed having you on the show during the confirmation process. You're welcome any time!

From: Gaimo, Melissa
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 3:07 PM
To: press@usdoj.gov
Subject: CNN / New Day: Sarah Isgur Flores (Fri, 8A)

Hello,

I'm writing to request an interview with Sarah Isgur Flores for CNN's morning show.

As coverage focuses on AG Sessions, can Sarah join us on the show tomorrow to clarify the facts to our viewers?

The hit-time would be 8A. We would be happy to send a crew.

Kind Regards,

Melissa

MELISSA GIAIMO

DC Editorial Producer "NEW DAY"

(b) (6) [REDACTED] cell

+1-202-351-4406 work

melissa.giaimo@turner.com

--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

@whignewtons

From: Lesh, Jose <jose.lesh@turner.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) >
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Bcc:
Subject: RE: CNN/ Friday
Date: Thu Mar 02 2017 06:38:36 EST
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks Sarah- let me know if Friday works for you. We'll take u anytime. Also- please send over any latest statement you might have- Jose

From: Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 6:36 AM
To: Lesh, Jose <Jose.Lesh@turner.com>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: CNN/ Friday

sorry--not available this morning at this point.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 6:31 AM, Lesh, Jose <Jose.Lesh@turner.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah- good morning. Checking to see if you're avail to us this morning via phone or from Cap Hill.

Thanks,

Jose

Non-responsive Record

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=9b6a3326c7b64b3c839f9f5d6b10
92df-flores, sar>
To: Fahrenthold, David
<david.fahrenthold@washpost.com>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Lolz...would love to here how far they went on this w you
Date: Mon Mar 06 2017 11:49:05 EST
Attachments:

Yeah. And to think I could be back at home in Texas with some land and maybe a couple longhorn:)

> On Mar 6, 2017, at 7:15 AM, Fahrenthold, David <David.Fahrenthold@washpost.com> wrote:
>
> Oh my lord...I have only heard bits and pieces of it, directly, but I've been hearing the stories second
hand. I've been thinking about you the last few days. You must be getting barraged on all sides.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
>
>> On Mar 6, 2017, at 12:00 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) [REDACTED] wrote:
>>
>> <Image.png>
>>
>>

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=9b6a3326c7b64b3c839f9f5d6b10
92df-flores, sar>
To: David Lynch <david.lynch@ft.com>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Help?
Date: Sun Mar 05 2017 17:47:39 EST
Attachments:

No, I'm sorry.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
(b)(6)

From: David Lynch [mailto:david.lynch@ft.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 5:46 PM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Help?

Understood. But at this point, since the story is already all over the world, the only issue is whether we write it "according to the nyt" or "according to people familiar etc"

Couldnt you at least confirm the broad thrust of the director asked DoJ to say something without getting into all the nitty gritty? Would be appreciated...

On Sun, Mar 5, 2017 at 5:43 PM Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Off the record: not trying to be a pain...but I'm not going to get into the habit of discussing private conversations if they even exist between senior leadership. Sorry!

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b)(6)

From: David Lynch [mailto:david.lynch@ft.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 5:34 PM

To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>

Subject: Help?

Sarah

Just left you a voice mail...I realize you're likely no-commenting the Comey development, but would appreciate some background or even off the record guidance. Can we chat? I'm at 703-999-8846.

Thanks,

Dave

--

David J Lynch Washington correspondent The Financial Times 703-999-8846 @davidjlynch

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David J Lynch Washington correspondent The Financial Times 703-999-8846 @davidjlynch

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From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=9b6a3326c7b64b3c839f9f5d6b10
92df-flores, sar>
To: Horwitz, Sari
<sari.horwitz@washpost.com>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE:
Date: Sun Mar 05 2017 17:35:48 EST
Attachments:

We're declining to comment

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b)(6)

From: Horwitz, Sari [mailto:Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 4:52 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Subject:

Sarah, Is the NYT story accurate that Comey has been trying to get DOJ to say that Trump's allegations are inaccurate?
Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 28, 2017, at 3:38 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

In theory yes--but I've been in and out of other offices all day.

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 3:04 PM -0500, "Horwitz, Sari" <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com> wrote:

No problem. Are you in your DOJ office now?

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Subject: Re: Meeting

Hey--sorry I keep being in and out of things here. Sure! Please stop by. I just need to be in another meeting at 430 if you don't mind it being a little short this time.

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 2:34 PM -0500, "Horwitz, Sari" <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com> wrote:

Sarah, can Matt and I just pop in and say hello to you around 4?

Sari

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:33 PM
To: Horwitz, Sari
Subject: Re: Meeting

I've got to meet with IT and get sworn in this afternoon--ugh! But should be around after 4. Would that work?

On Tue, Feb 28, 2017 at 11:13 AM -0500, "Horwitz, Sari" <Sari.Horwitz@washpost.com> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

I was at Sessions's speech today and I heard you were there. Is there any chance we could meet today? Matt and I are working on a story about Session's first weeks at DOJ and we'd love to talk to you and possibly some senior officials for the piece.

Thanks much,

Sari

Sari Horwitz

Washington Post Staff Writer

(202) 334-7284

Cell: (b) (6)

@sarihorwitz

Bio and stories: wapo.st/sarihorwitz

From: Bohn, Kevin <kevin.bohn@turner.com>
To: Carr, Peter (OPA)
<peter.carr@usdoj.gov>
Cc: Sessions Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) (b) (6) >
Bcc:
Subject: RE: CNN inquiry -- do you have a comment on the NY Times story?
Date: Sun Mar 05 2017 17:27:43 EST
Attachments:

Thank you

From: Carr, Peter (OPA) [mailto:Peter.Carr@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Sunday, March 05, 2017 5:26 PM
To: Bohn, Kevin <Kevin.Bohn@turner.com>
Cc: Sessions Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: CNN inquiry -- do you have a comment on the NY Times story?

We are declining to comment on this. Don't have any guidance at this time.

On Mar 5, 2017, at 5:13 PM, Bohn, Kevin <Kevin.Bohn@turner.com> wrote:

Comey Asks Justice Dept. to Reject Trump's Wiretapping Claim

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT and MICHAEL D. SHEARMARCH 5, 2017

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Photo

WASHINGTON — The F.B.I. director, James B. Comey, asked the Justice Department this weekend to publicly reject President Trump's assertion that President Barack Obama ordered the tapping of Mr. Trump's phones, senior American officials said on Sunday. Mr. Comey has argued that the highly charged claim is false and must be corrected, they said, but the department has not released any such statement.

Mr. Comey made the request on Saturday after Mr. Trump leveled his allegation on Twitter. Mr. Comey

has been working to get the Justice Department to knock down Mr. Trump's claim because there is no evidence to support it and it insinuates that the F.B.I. broke the law, the officials said.

A spokesman for the F.B.I. declined to comment. Sarah Isgur Flores, the spokeswoman for the Justice Department, also declined to comment.

A statement by the Justice Department or Mr. Comey refuting Mr. Trump's allegations would be a remarkable rebuke of a sitting president, putting the nation's top law enforcement officials in the position of questioning the truthfulness of the government's top leader. The situation underscores the high stakes of what the president and his aides have set out by accusing the former president of a conspiracy to undermine Mr. Trump's young administration.

Kevin Bohn

Supervising Producer

202-898-7954 work

(b) (6) [REDACTED] cell

<image001.jpg>

From: (b)(6): personal email of F. Taban
<(b)(6): personal email of F. Taban> on behalf of Faruk Taban
<ftaban@turkicamericanalliance.org>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Faruk from TAA
Date: Sun Mar 05 2017 06:04:09 EST
Attachments:

Hi Sarah
I know you are really busy.

Have you got a chance to read my message?
Thanks
Faruk

On Wed, Mar 1, 2017 at 9:40 AM, Faruk Taban <ftaban@turkicamericanalliance.org> wrote:

Hello Sarah,

It was nice meeting you yesterday at NAAG during General Sessions' speech.

As mentioned to the General, I am the President of Turkic American Alliance, affiliated with 200+ organization in US, mostly inspired by Mr. Fethullah Gulen, scholar live in Pennsylvania under heavy scrutiny by Turkish Government.

Since all of our affiliated Turkish American diaspora are severely affected by Turkish Government crackdown here in US, I would like to set up a meeting with appropriate personnel at DOJ to do a briefing about our concerns.

I would really appreciate your directions to get that organized sometime later this month. Thanks in advance.

Faruk

Sent from my iPhone

--

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President
Turkic American Alliance
2200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 400E
Washington, DC 20037
ftaban@turkicamericanalliance.org
Voice: 202.507.5634

--

Faruk Taban, Ph.D.
President
Turkic American Alliance
2200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Suite 400E
Washington, DC 20037
ftaban@turkicamericanalliance.org
Voice: 202.507.5634

From: Sganga, Nicole <sgangan@cbsnews.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
Cc: Crawford, Jan <jrc@cbsnews.com>
Bcc:
Subject: Invitation to Gridiron Dinner
Date: Fri Mar 03 2017 12:26:55 EST
Attachments:

Hi Sarah,

Hope this email finds you well. Our CBS News Chief legal correspondent Jan Crawford would love to host you at this year's Gridiron Club Dinner, if you are interested. The dinner is tomorrow, March 4. It takes place in the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance, 999 Ninth Street NW, in downtown Washington. Dress is white tie for men, and long dresses for women. The dinner will begin promptly at 7pm, with cocktails beginning at 5:30pm.

CBS News will be joined by Makan Delrahim, Kathy Arberg and Judge Laurence Silberman, in addition to our Washington Bureau Chief Chris Isham.

Please let us know if you would be interested in attending or if you have any questions/concerns. Thank you very much.

Best,

Nicole

Nicole Sganga || CBS News (w): 202.457.4402 (c): (b) (6)

From: Wallace, Chris
<chris.wallace@foxnews.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: I also promise--we will ask the AG about his agenda for Justice going forward.
Date: Fri Mar 03 2017 11:02:51 EST
Attachments:

I understand.

Please let me know if you change your mind.

And we would love to have the AG when he has something to push.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Wallace, Chris
Subject: RE: I also promise--we will ask the AG about his agenda for Justice going forward.

At this point, I think we're going to stay off tv for this weekend. Sorry! Hopefully next time.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Wallace, Chris [mailto:Chris.Wallace@FOXNEWS.COM]
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 9:46 AM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) <(b) (6)>
Subject: I also promise--we will ask the AG about his agenda for Justice going forward.

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From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fwd: Fyi re today
Date: Fri Mar 03 2017 11:03:13 EST
Attachments:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6) >
Date: Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 10:57 PM
Subject: Fwd: Fyi re today
To: "Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA)" <sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Lynch <david.lynch@ft.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 9:33 PM
Subject: Re: Fyi re today
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6) >

Great. Suggest a couple of dates

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 2, 2017, at 10:20 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6) > wrote:

Yes! (To the stronger option)

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 9:37 AM -0500, "David Lynch" <david.lynch@ft.com> wrote:

Sarah

Just FYI you likely will hear from my bureau chief today, Demetri Sevastopolu. I'm out reporting an unrelated story so he's handling news of the day.

Also, I know you're swamped but I really would like to grab coffee and say hello in person as soon as you can manage. Coffee or something stronger, I should say...

Best

Dave

Sent from my iPhone

--

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

--

Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
@whignewtons

From: Yaron, Eldad <eldad.yaron@foxnews.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: are you available today?
Date: Fri Mar 03 2017 10:50:53 EST
Attachments:

No hassle at all thanks so much for considering. Please keep in touch. E.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 10:47 AM
To: Yaron, Eldad <Eldad.Yaron@FOXNEWS.COM>
Subject: RE: are you available today?

I'm think I'm going to stay dark today. Thanks for checking back in. Sorry for hassle!

From: Yaron, Eldad [mailto:Eldad.Yaron@FOXNEWS.COM]
Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Cc: Flores, Sarah Isgur. (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: are you available today?

Any way to tape something at 6pm on The Factor? Jesse Watters will host

On Mar 2, 2017, at 7:21 PM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)> wrote:

not sure yet about whether I'm doing anything tomorrow. will let you know if I do. cc'ing DOJ account.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:36 AM, Yaron, Eldad <Eldad.Yaron@foxnews.com> wrote:

I'd love to do this tomorrow – just let me know. it would be at 5pm-ish.

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 11:21 AM
To: Yaron, Eldad <Eldad.Yaron@FOXNEWS.COM>
Subject: Re: are you available today?

Not today. Might be tomorrow.

On Thu, Mar 2, 2017 at 11:19 AM -0500, "Yaron, Eldad" <Eldad.Yaron@foxnews.com> wrote:

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--

Sarah Isgur Flores

(b) (6)

@whignewtons

From: Eric Lichtblau <ericl@nytimes.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Transition question
Date: Fri Mar 03 2017 09:55:24 EST
Attachments:

Any clarification on that?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christina Wilkie
<christina.wilkie@huffingtonpost.com>
To: (b) (6)
[REDACTED]
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: DEADLINE 2:30PM -- Request for Comment - Huffington Post -- Sessions & Kislyak
April reception
Date: Wed Mar 08 2017 14:06:09 EST
Attachments:

Hi Sarah,

I'm a reporter at the Huffington Post, and I'm doing a story on the April 27 2016 reception at the Mayflower, which I understand both Sessions and Trump attended. As you probably know, Russian Ambassador Kislyak was also there, one of just four ambassadors invited by the host group.

The event featured a receiving line, so nearly everyone got a chance to greet Trump, his campaign advisers, including Sessions, and other Trump VIPs. Presumably Sessions and Kislyak recognized one another, given their respective positions

Was this the first meeting between the two men? Did they have a conversation?

Moreover, why didn't the Attorney General include this reception in his amended testimony to the Senate? This is especially curious because he included the RNC meet-and-greet event with Ambassadors in Cleveland, which was similarly impersonal and informal.

I am on a tight deadline. Please send me a response or call me within the next 30 minutes.

Thank you,
Christina

Christina Wilkie
White House Reporter
The Huffington Post
202-286-6875

From: Adam Goldman <adam.goldman@nytimes.com>
To: (b) (6)
[REDACTED]
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Greetings
Date: Tue Mar 07 2017 10:26:24 EST
Attachments:

Do you have DOJ email yet?

Adam

Adam Goldman
Reporter
The New York Times
(m) (b) (6)
(o) 202.862.0362

From: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) >
To: sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: (b) (6)
Date: Wed Mar 08 2017 17:24:52 EST
Attachments: (b) (6)

Document ID: 0.7.13976.5915-000001

Owner: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>

Filename: (b) (6)

Last Modified: Wed Mar 08 17:24:52 EST 2017

From: Norris, Elise <elise.norris@foxnews.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fox News request for today/Wednesday
Date: Mon Mar 06 2017 10:15:18 EST
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Sarah!

Wanted to see if you could join in the 2pm hour today or Wednesday regarding the latest with the Trump/wiretap story? We are flexible with which angle-but maybe something related to latest with Comey. Let me know your thoughts! Sandra Smith is the host.

Elise Norris

Fox News Channel, Washington DC

Booker, America's News HQ 2-3pm EST

Office: (202) 824-6554

Cell: (b) (6) [REDACTED]

elise.norris@foxnews.com

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From: Acosta, Jim <jim.acosta@turner.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Is that accurate that DOJ has not assured WH on POTUS?
Date: Thu Mar 09 2017 17:49:17 EST
Attachments:

Understood.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2017, at 5:47 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

We don't comment on internal conversations with the White House. As a policy, we do not confirm or deny the existence of investigations. Anything beyond that, we decline to comment:-)

Thanks!
S

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Acosta, Jim [mailto:Jim.Acosta@turner.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 3:39 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6)
Subject: Is that accurate that DOJ has not assured WH on POTUS?

on whether he's under investigation.. DOJ has not said either way, I imagine.

From: Acosta, Jim <jim.acosta@turner.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Will DOJ be providing evidence of wiretapping to intel committees?
Date: Mon Mar 13 2017 11:39:28 EDT
Attachments:

ok thanks...

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:38:17 AM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: RE: Will DOJ be providing evidence of wiretapping to intel committees?

I don't want to be too definitive until I know more later—but that's my best guess

From: Acosta, Jim [mailto:Jim.Acosta@turner.com]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:37 AM
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Subject: Re: Will DOJ be providing evidence of wiretapping to intel committees?

Got it.. but perhaps not much more than that?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:35:27 AM
To: Acosta, Jim
Subject: RE: Will DOJ be providing evidence of wiretapping to intel committees?

FPPO: I think there could be a letter later today letting them know we are in receipt of their request etc

-----Original Message-----

From: Acosta, Jim [mailto:Jim.Acosta@turner.com]
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 11:30 AM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Subject: Will DOJ be providing evidence of wiretapping to intel committees?

Should we expect that to happen? On bgrd.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Wilber, Del <del.wilber@latimes.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: WHCD
Date: Wed Mar 15 2017 09:22:36 EDT
Attachments:

Yep

Del Wilber
(b) (6) [REDACTED] (cell)
202-824-8223 (w)
Twitter: @delwilber
A Good Month for Murder: <http://amzn.to/22vNLu4>
Rawhide Down: <http://amzn.to/29H1l8I>

On Mar 15, 2017, at 9:21 AM, Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6) [REDACTED]> wrote:

Just confirming that y'all have a ticket for Rod Rosenstein to WHCD regardless of whether he's been confirmed by that point? Not a problem if not--but let me know so I can confirm on his calendar.

From: Bohn, Kevin <kevin.bohn@turner.com>
To: Carr, Peter (OPA)
<peter.carr@usdoj.gov>; Sessions Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)) <(b) (6) >
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: new statement?
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 19:46:19 EST
Attachments: image001.jpg

Is there a new statement about the attorney resignations? Is the number accepted 44?

Thank you

Kevin Bohn
Supervising Producer
202-898-7954 work
(b) (6) cell

From: Pooley, Audrey
<audrey.pooley@foxbusiness.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
Cc: Edmondson, Mallory
<mallory.edmondson@foxbusiness.com>
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Fox Business
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 14:35:35 EST
Attachments:

Hi,

Are you available today in the 5pm (EST) hour to do an interview with 'Risk & Reward'? The topics are below, please let me know as soon as possible.

TOPIC- HIT TIME 5:20PM

Time magazine going after president Trump. Their claim that he could destroy democracy sparking outrage.

<http://time.com/4696428/donald-trump-war-state-government/>

TOPIC- HIT TIME 5:45PM

Samantha Bee apologizes for mocking patient's Nazi haircut | Daily Mail Online

This after the media repeatedly tried to call trump anti-Semitic

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4299004/Samantha-Bee-apologizes-mocking-patients-Nazi-haircut.html?ito=email_share_article-drawer

Sincerely,

Audrey Pooley

From: Jackson, David M <dmjackso@usatoday.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: USA Today
Date: Sat Mar 11 2017 09:08:30 EST
Attachments:

Hi -- David Jackson here .. Don't have your work email ... do you have the US attorneys statement?

Thanks

From: Talcott, Alex <(b) (6)>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Sarah - Sessions support from New Hampshire
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 22:42:44 EST
Attachments:

Was glad to see the AG's visit to NH this week for the opioid summit.

Can continue to help get the DoJ message out, otherwise collaborate if helpful.

Best,
Alex

--
Alex Talcott, JD
Adjunct Instructor, Business Law
SNHU

other affiliations:
Donohue & Associates, PLLC (Attorneys at Law)
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

From: Talcott, Alex
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 6:53 AM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
Subject: RE: Sarah - Sessions support from New Hampshire

My pleasure. Have a great day.

From: Sarah Isgur Flores [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2017 6:45 AM
To: Talcott, Alex
Subject: Re: Sarah - Sessions support from New Hampshire

Thank you!! This is great!

S

On Tue, Jan 10, 2017 at 6:21 AM -0500, "Talcott, Alex" <(b) (6) [REDACTED]> wrote:

Good morning,

in today's NH Union Leader, my op-ed:

<http://www.unionleader.com/Another-View-Alex-Talcott-Sessions-embraces-bipartisanship-and-the-rule-of-law-01102017>

Best wishes,
Alex Talcott
@AlexTalcott

--

Alex Talcott, JD
Faculty Team Lead and Instructor, Business Law & Career Skills
Southern New Hampshire University
Manchester, NH
(b) (6)
(b) (5) [REDACTED] cell

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Carr, Peter (OPA) <peter.carr@usdoj.gov>
To: Andrea Noble <anoble@washingtontimes.com>
Cc: Sarah Isqur Flores
<(b) (6)>
Bcc:
Subject: Re: Resignations accepted?
Date: Sat Mar 11 2017 10:25:14 EST
Attachments:

We are declining to comment beyond the two statements yesterday, which indicated all 46 were asked the tender their resignations and the President has declined to accept the resignation of Boente and Rosenstein.

On Mar 11, 2017, at 8:38 AM, Andrea Noble <anoble@washingtontimes.com> wrote:

Is it possible to get a list sometime this weekend of all the US Attorney resignations that were accepted? Or were we to read into the statement about not accepting Rosenstein's and Boente's that they are the only ones sticking around?

Thanks.

Andrea

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From: Rebecca Ballhaus
<rebecca.ballhaus@wsj.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Hey
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 22:08:32 EST
Attachments:

Sorry for the late email...we're trying to confirm that Preet is definitely getting dismissed. Can you help?
(And sorry to use your gmail...promise I won't write a story! Don't have your DOJ)

Sent from my iPhone

--
Rebecca Ballhaus

The Wall Street Journal
(b) (6)
@rebeccaballhaus

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=9b6a3326c7b64b3c839f9f5d6b10
92df-flores, sar>
To: Kopan, Tal <tal.kopan@cnn.com>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Nice seeing you
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 16:32:50 EST
Attachments:

Here!!

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

From: Kopan, Tal [mailto:Tal.Kopan@cnn.com]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 4:19 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Subject: Nice seeing you

Good seeing you last night.

What's your official email so I can use that shiny new govt address?

Thanks

Tal Kopan

Political Reporter | CNNPolitics.com

tal.kopan@cnn.com

(C) (b) (6) (O) 202-772-2718

Twitter: @talkopan

From: Ben Jacobs <ben.jacobs@theguardian.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: can I get on DOJ email list please?
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 15:26:18 EST
Attachments:

Huzzah!

Hope things have finally quieted down a bit by the way

On 10 March 2017 at 15:23, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Here it is!

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Ben Jacobs [mailto:ben.jacobs@theguardian.com]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 3:21 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Subject: can I get on DOJ email list please?

Also, you have an official DOJ email yet?

--

Ben Jacobs

Political Reporter

The Guardian

W: 646-238-3863

E: ben.jacobs@theguardian.com

Twitter: @bencjacobs

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Ben Jacobs

Political Reporter

The Guardian

W: 646-238-3863

E: ben.jacobs@theguardian.com

Twitter: @bencjacobs

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From: Sam Stein <samstein@huffingtonpost.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: what's your DoJ contact?
Date: Fri Mar 10 2017 15:12:31 EST
Attachments:

thanks sarah

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:11 PM, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Here you go!!

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

From: Sam Stein [mailto:samstein@-huffingtonpost.com]
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2017 3:10 PM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Subject: Re: what's your DoJ contact?

hope you're doing well by the way

On Fri, Mar 10, 2017 at 3:09 PM, Sam Stein <samstein@huffingtonpost.com> wrote:

also, can i get on your press list please?

--

Sam Stein

Senior Politics Editor

Huffington Post

646 510-4205

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<https://itunes.apple.com/us/-podcast/candidate--confessional-defeated/-id1073764351?mt=2>

--

Sam Stein

Senior Politics Editor

Huffington Post

646 510-4205

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<https://itunes.apple.com/us/-podcast/candidate--confessional-defeated/-id1073764351?mt=2>

--

Sam Stein

Senior Politics Editor

Huffington Post

646 510-4205

Subscribe to my podcast, Candidate Confessional

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/candidate-confessional-defeated/id1073764351?mt=2>

From: Joel Pollak <(b) (6)>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Quick question about EDNY
Date: Sun Mar 19 2017 22:39:03 EDT
Attachments:

Hi Sarah

Hope all is well after the craziness.

Off the record -- I have had some inquiries from people in the Jewish community about the next U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.

They want to put a good word in for someone -- do you know to whom they would speak or address correspondence?

Yours,

Joel

From: Acosta, Jim <jim.acosta@turner.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: George Conway is going to be tapped to head the Civil Division?
Date: Sat Mar 18 2017 19:05:28 EDT
Attachments:

Confirmable on bgrd?

Sent from my iPhone

From: Merica, Dan <dan.merica@cnn.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
(b) (6) ; Sarah Isgur Flores
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Can you confirm George Conway will lead Justice Department's civil division
Date: Sat Mar 18 2017 17:33:31 EDT
Attachments:

Hey,

Can you confirm the reports the George Conway will lead the Justice Department's civil division?

We have one source saying yes, but wanted to get a second.

Thank you,

Dan

From: Vox Sentences <newsletter@vox.com>
To: (b) (6) >
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: This budget won't become law. Read it as what it is: a manifesto.
Date: Thu Mar 16 2017 20:41:07 EDT
Attachments:

Such a skinny budget, you could starve.

Vox Sentences is written by Dylan Matthews and Dara Lind.

TOP NEWS

Killing CPB to fund CBP

Saul Loeb/AFP/Getty Images

*The Trump administration released its "skinny budget" — an outline of changes to current funding it's planning to request when it submits a formal budget to Congress later this year — on Thursday. The budget is less "skinny" than it is disordered — the administration has bumped up defense spending by 10 percent, and made billions of dollars in cuts to discretionary domestic programs to make up for it.

[Vox / Dylan Matthews]

*The virtue of such deep cuts is that with so many programs outright eliminated under the skinny budget, it's easier to know how Americans will be affected — and in particular, what the budget would do to many of the working-class and rural voters that Trump considers his base. [Washington Post / Philip Bump]

*Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, defending the cuts at a White House press conference, gave one of the more tone-deaf defenses of budget austerity in recent memory — arguing that programs to give kids food after school, and Meals on Wheels, don't "show results," and that cutting them is "compassionate." (In fact, both of them have been shown to provide benefits beyond, you know, feeding the people they feed.) [NYT / Paula Span]

*Of course, those concerned with evidence have other things to worry about: Mulvaney outright said that climate change research is "a waste of your money," and the skinny budget cuts the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by 30 percent (with even deeper cuts for science grants in other agencies). [Vox / Brian Resnick and Sarah Frostenson]

*Meanwhile, the combination of beefed-up defense funding and slashed State Department funding reflects a world in which the US has cashed in all its soft power for hard power. [Vox / Zack Beauchamp]

*The most interesting parts of Trump's budget are where the lines between "domestic spending" (bad) and "public safety" (good) blur. So there's a lot more spending for immigration detention, for example, but less spending for standard federal prisons — thanks in part to the fact that the Trump budget assumes on the Obama-era decline in the federal prison population will continue, even though the president and his attorney general think that incarceration is the solution to crime. [The Guardian / Lois Beckett]

*And then, of course, there's the question of the border wall. Between the budget and the request for supplemental defense and security funding for 2017 that the Trump administration submitted to

Congress Thursday, it's asking for \$4 billion for the wall — which everyone agrees won't pay for an entire wall, but no one knows how much it actually will pay for. [Politico / Ted Hesson]

*Bear in mind: This isn't the formal budget yet. And it's very unlikely that these cuts will become law. Republicans in Congress are veritably freaking out over the budget Trump presented, and not in a good way. [Washington Post / Kelsey Snell and Karoun Demirjian]

*Presidents' budgets are almost always fantasy documents; Congress rarely takes funding cues blindly from the executive branch. But this quote from a senior House GOP aide is still striking: "It's a joke ... we've learned not to listen to anything he says or does. We're on our own." [Glenn Thrush via Twitter]

Tap, tap, tap. Is this thing off?

Education Images/UIG via Getty Images

*Sens. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Mark Warner (D-VA), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, issued a joint statement Thursday declaring flatly that they say "no indications" that President Trump was "wiretapped" or otherwise surveilled by President Obama or anyone else. [Reuters / Ayesha Rascoe and Doina Chiacu]

*The statement comes the week before FBI Director James Comey is set to testify before Congress on the ongoing inquiry into links between Trump and Russia — during which he'll almost certainly be asked about Trump's accusation last week (over Twitter) that Trump Tower was "wiretapped" during the campaign. The statement might make it easier for Comey to deny the allegation. [Vox / Yochi Dreazen]

*The problem is that the president is sticking to this ridiculous claim. Very much so. Press secretary Sean Spicer delivered an eight-minute(!) soliloquy to reporters Thursday on the subject — arguing vehemently that evidence would come out that the UK intelligence agency GCHQ had surveilled the president. [Politico / Matthew Nussbaum]

*This claim has its roots in a conspiracy theory that Obama asked the UK to surveil Trump — which is illegal in about two different directions, and also wholly unsubstantiated. [Observer / John R. Schindler]

*(The UK is, unsurprisingly, pretty angry at the accusation.) [Jim Sciutto via Twitter]

*As part of Trump's attempt to back up his claims Wednesday night, during an interview with Tucker Carlson, he threw out a claim that "the CIA was hacked" — something that is either a lie or, as Rep. Adam Schiff (the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee) has pointed out, classified information that anyone else in government would be in trouble for leaking. [Politico / Austin Wright]

Whaxit?

Ken Jack - Corbis/Corbis via Getty Images

*Scoxit: On Monday, Nicola Sturgeon — the first minister of Scotland and a member of the pro-independence Scottish National Party — called for a vote on Scottish independence from the UK in fall 2018 or spring 2019. Call it Scoxit. [New Statesman / Patrick Maguire]

*Brexit: Scottish voters rejected independence in 2014. But that was before last year's referendum on Britain leaving the EU — something Scotland fiercely opposed. [NYT / Katrin Bennhold]

*Single Marxit: Scoxit would allow Scotland to rejoin the EU and, accordingly, ensure its continued access to the EU's single trade market. But it would erect trade barriers with the UK, which, for obvious reasons, is a major trade partner itself. [FT / Gemma Tetlow]

*Dismixit: Independence would also set up Scotland for, potentially, years of budget austerity — the nation's economy doesn't look too hot right now. But it's not like Brexit is going to be an economic walk in the park, either. And besides, one of the lessons of the Brexit vote is that warnings of economic risk simply didn't matter as much to voters as they did to experts. [The Spectator / Alex Massie]

*Nixit!: UK Prime Minister Theresa May was expected to formally approve the referendum request. But on Thursday, she didn't. May and her Conservative government (as well as the Scottish Labour Party) argue that Scotland shouldn't vote on independence until the UK has completed its Brexit negotiations with the EU (which won't have been completed by spring 2019), so that Scotland knows what it's voting

on. [The Guardian / Severin Carell and Heather Stewart]

*Forxit: It's possible that Sturgeon and the Scottish government will keep pushing May to fold. Next week, the nation's parliament is expected to ask the UK government for an order under "Section 30," which would allow a legally binding referendum. [BBC]

*Bootxit: If May and the UK keep playing hardball with Scotland, they might be hurting themselves in the medium run — if Scots see the UK as messing around in their affairs too much, they might be more inclined to support independence. [FT / Mure Dickie and George Parker]

MISCELLANEOUS

In defense of "y'all": a manifesto.

[The Atlantic / Vann R. Newkirk II]

*Fun history fact: King George V was killed by his doctor, Lord Dawson, who injected him with 750mg of morphine and a gram of cocaine so he'd die in time for the Times to cover his passing. [The Guardian / Sam Knight]

*In 1996, Peter Navarro (now Trump's anti-trade guru) ran for Congress as a Democrat, and was supported in rallies by ... Hillary Clinton. [Politico / Megan Cassella]

*What if studies relying on Amazon's Mechanical Turk are using the same few thousand people over and over and over again? [Science / John Bohannon]

*A study in Sweden finds that people on the autism spectrum have a shorter life expectancy, by 16 years — and doctors' failure to treat unrelated health conditions in autistic people could be a key reason why. [NIH]

VERBATIM

"Last year, more songs were streamed on any single day than were downloaded during the entire year." [The Smart Set / Ted Gioia]

**"It is a great office to throw up in." [Genius co-founder Tom Lehman to The Verge / Casey Newton]

**"It is important to emphasize that the claim that wild animal suffering is bad does not imply a guilt claim of the form 'predators are morally guilty.'" [Journal of Practical Ethics / Thomas Sittler-Adamczewski]

**"If there's ever an opera made of this, this will be one of the better scenes,' Robertson said, remembering the first night his cat was missing.'" [MPR / Tracy Mumford, Tom Weber]

**"Amid meetings with donors and professors, while teaching contracts and tax law, his mind kept returning to the question of what, if anything, his daily life had to do with eternity." [New Yorker / Joshua Rothman]

WATCH THIS

How poaching is changing the face of African elephants

It's "natural" selection. [YouTube / Gina Barton]

Read more from Vox

The GOP's "three-pronged" health care strategy, explained

With Trump's new travel order blocked and his health bill flailing, his agenda's in tatters

Trump's budget has some good news for opponents of mass incarceration

Trump's budget envisions a US government that barely deals with climate change at all

T2 Trainspotting: same characters, fewer drugs, more ennui

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From: (b) (6)
<(b) (6)>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Please don't share this link
Date: Wed Mar 15 2017 21:30:12 EDT
Attachments:

But wanted to flag as an FYI re. splitting the Ninth Circuit --

<http://mms.tveyes.com/PlaybackPortal.aspx?SavedEditID=1be124fd-ac70-4098-8243-98ef0d40a3f7>

From: Ayres, Tara <tara.ayres@foxbusiness.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: FOX Business Request - 4pm hour - TODAY
Date: Thu Mar 16 2017 12:00:13 EDT
Attachments:

Okay, thank you for letting me know! Any chance you'd be available next week in the 4pm ET hour?

-----Original Message-----

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:11 AM
To: Ayres, Tara
Subject: RE: FOX Business Request - 4pm hour - TODAY

Wont be able to join this week. Sorry!

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
(b) (6) [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Ayres, Tara [mailto:Tara.Ayres@FOXBUSINESS.COM]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 6:56 AM
To: Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov; Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Subject: FOX Business Request - 4pm hour - TODAY

Hi Sarah,

Hope all is well since we last spoke. And my apologies for reaching out directly - if there's another contact I can connect with, please let me know!

Are you available to join "After the Bell" in the 4pm ET hour today? We'll be discussing Hawaii's ruling on the travel ban.

You would be one-on-one with either Melissa Francis or David Asman.

Please let me know when you can.

Thank you,
Tara

Sent from my iPhone

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From: David Lynch <david.lynch@ft.com>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: travel ban comment
Date: Thu Mar 16 2017 11:01:56 EDT
Attachments:

thanks.

while i have your attention, can we schedule a chat? your choice: breakfast/lunch/coffee/beer...

On 16 March 2017 at 10:58, Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) <Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov> wrote:

Just statement from last night. Thanks!

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6) [REDACTED]

From: David Lynch [mailto:david.lynch@ft.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 10:56 AM
To: Carr, Peter (OPA) <peter.carr@usdoj.gov>; Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6) [REDACTED]>
Subject: travel ban comment

folks

any comment on the administration's legal plans following the defeat in maryland? is DOJ pursuing the president's statement in michigan that he wants to revive the original executive order?

("I think we ought to go back to the first one and go all the way, which is what I wanted to do in the first place")

thanks,

dave

--

David J. Lynch

Washington correspondent

The Financial Times

1023 15th Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20005

Office: 202-434-0986

Cell: (b) (6)

follow me on Twitter: @davidjlynch

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From: Abueg, Mark (OPA)
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=a5f86d36c8bd4f2da13ecfd1377a
ff89-abueg, mark>
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
</o=exchangelabs/ou=exchange administrative group
(fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=9b6a3326c7b64b3c839f9f5d6b10
92df-flores, sar>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Thinking of summer at the IOP!
Date: Mon Mar 27 2017 16:33:58 EDT
Attachments:

Understood. Thanks for sharing.

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:25 PM
To: Abueg, Mark (OPA) <mabueg@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: FW: Thinking of summer at the IOP!

Here's their resumes/applications. (b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b)
(c)

Sarah Isgur Flores

Director of Public Affairs

(b) (6)

From: Polen, Sadie [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores <(b) (6)>
Subject: Thinking of summer at the IOP!

Hi Sarah,

How're things in DC? I read your name in the news a few times recently and shouted that I knew you!

I know you and (b) have been in touch about this summer, and I wanted to follow up on that. I'm attaching a packet of applications, as well as two additional applications for you to take a look at. If you have time to take a look at them, see if there's anyone that looks particularly strong to you/you'd like to interview, etc. I'm happy to reach out to students to help set up conversations and/or release students that don't seem like a good fit. Let me know how we can be helpful from here in moving the process forward (students tend to start getting antsy about their summer plans right around now – and with a blizzard this week, I'm pretty ready for summer myself!).

Sending good thoughts from the IOP!

Sadie

--

Sadie Polen

Institute of Politics

Harvard University

79 JFK Street / Cambridge, MA 02138

+617.496.1784

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Our Mission Statement

To enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

About the Department

The Office of the Attorney General was created by the Judiciary Act of 1789 (ch. 20, sec. 35, 1 Stat. 73, 92-93), as a one-person part-time position. The Act specified that the Attorney General was to be "learned in the law," with the duty "to prosecute and conduct all suits in the Supreme Court in which the United States shall be concerned, and to give his advice and opinion upon questions of law when required by the President of the United States, or when requested by the heads of any of the departments, touching any matters that may concern their departments."

However, the workload quickly became too much for one person, necessitating the hiring of several assistants for the Attorney General. As the work steadily increased along with the size of the new nation, private attorneys were retained to work on cases.

By 1870, after the end of the Civil War, the increase in the amount of litigation involving the United States had required the very expensive retention of a large number of private attorneys to handle the workload. A concerned Congress passed the Act to Establish the Department of Justice (ch. 150, 16 Stat. 162), creating "an executive department of the government of the United States" with the Attorney General as its head.

Officially coming into existence on July 1, 1870, the Department of Justice was empowered to handle all criminal prosecutions and civil suits in which the United States had an interest. To assist the Attorney General, the 1870 Act also created the Office of the Solicitor General, who represents the interests of the United States before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The 1870 Act remains the foundation for the Department's authority, but the structure of the Department of Justice has changed over the years, with the addition of the offices of Deputy Attorney General, Associate Attorney General, and the formation of various components, offices, boards and divisions. From its beginning as a one-man, part-time position, the Department of Justice has evolved into the world's largest law office and the chief enforcer of federal laws.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The most sacred of the duties of government [is] to do equal and impartial justice to all its citizens." This sacred duty remains the guiding principle for the women and men of the U.S. Department of Justice.

<https://www.justice.gov/>

City: Washington, D.C.

From: David Lynch <david.lynch@ft.com>
To: Sarah Isgur Flores
<(b) (6)> ; Carr, Peter (OPA)
<peter.carr@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: comment re Yates
Date: Tue Mar 28 2017 10:39:05 EDT
Attachments:

folks

does the department have any comment on its position about the ability of sally yates to testify before congress?

fwiw, am writing for our midday print deadline

thanks

dave

--

David J. Lynch
Washington correspondent
The Financial Times
1023 15th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Office: 202-434-0986
Cell: (b) (6)
follow me on Twitter: @davidjlynch

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From: Polen, Sadie
(b) (6) >
To: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA)
<sarah.isgur.flores@usdoj.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Thinking of summer at the IOP!
Date: Fri Mar 24 2017 17:33:45 EDT
Attachments:

Yes! So sorry I didn't loop back with you!

I reached out to Mark, and he was very nice, but also seemed firm about the deadline, sadly. If you think there's any way we can get a Harvard student to help in your office this summer, let me know – we have the funding to pay for it!

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 5:12 PM
To: Polen, Sadie (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Thinking of summer at the IOP!

Did you reach out? Mark I think said he had emailed you before but hadn't heard from you since we had talked.

On Mar 17, 2017, at 11:48 AM, Polen, Sadie <(b) (6)> wrote:

Thanks – reaching out now and crossing fingers!

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 11:45 AM
To: Polen, Sadie (b) (6)
Subject: Re: Thinking of summer at the IOP!

Mark: mabueg@jmd.usdoj.gov

On Mar 17, 2017, at 11:38 AM, Polen, Sadie (b) (6) wrote:

Oh no! Hmm... do you know who the intern coordinator is – I didn't see it on the DOJ OPA listing? Or you could connect me to the right person and I'll take it from there (with fingers and toes crossed)?

From: Flores, Sarah Isgur (OPA) [mailto:Sarah.Isgur.Flores@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:54 AM
To: Polen, Sadie <(b) (6)>
Subject: RE: Thinking of summer at the IOP!

Nooooo!!! The deadline already passed for my office, which is posted on the DOJ OPA website I'm told. I would love love love to have taken some. The only thing I can suggest is that they (or you) call the front office and talk to the career intern coordinator and ask if they can get an extension on their applications.

Sarah Isgur Flores
Director of Public Affairs
(b) (6)

From: Polen, Sadie [mailto:(b) (6)]
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Sarah Isgur Flores (b) (6)
Subject: Thinking of summer at the IOP!

Hi Sarah,

How're things in DC? I read your name in the news a few times recently and shouted that I knew you!

I know you and (b) have been in touch about this summer, and I wanted to follow up on that. I'm attaching a packet of applications, as well as two additional applications for you to take a look at. If you have time to take a look at them, see if there's anyone that looks particularly strong to you/you'd like to interview, etc. I'm happy to reach out to students to help set up conversations and/or release students that don't seem like a good fit. Let me know how we can be helpful from here in moving the process forward (students tend to start getting antsy about their summer plans right around now – and with a

blizzard this week, I'm pretty ready for summer myself!).

Sending good thoughts from the IOP!

Sadie

--

Sadie Polen

Institute of Politics

Harvard University

79 JFK Street / Cambridge, MA 02138

+617.496.1784

From: Sam Stein <samstein@huffingtonpost.com>
To: (b) (6) [REDACTED]
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Will Trump ever rid himself of Obama-ism?
Date: Wed Mar 29 2017 20:25:46 EDT
Attachments:

This is the piece I tackled today, arguing that it might be time to re-consider Jonathan Chait's seemingly ill-timed book.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/obama-trump-legacy_us_58dbf282e4b0546370645d3b?ghcrkxk3hwr8uxr

Enjoy

Obama's Legacy Proves Harder To Erase Than Trump Imagined

Campaign promises are meeting governing realities, and realities are winning.

It wasn't quite in the league of predicting the Dow would hit 36,000 months before the dot-com bubble burst, but when New York Magazine's Jonathan Chait unveiled his book on Barack Obama's enduring legacy shortly before Donald Trump's election, it seemed – for lack of a better term – poorly timed.

Trump, after all, was not just running to undo Obama's record. He embodied, in many ways, the antithesis of the former president: brash, not particularly interested in policy detail and prone to push societal pressure points. When Chait stood by his premise, the internet, that unforgiving beast, let him have it. Ben Domenech, writing for the conservative National Review, called it "an author's nightmare" to "have your book arrive just as its central thesis is dashed against the sharp rocks of reality." Other conservatives indulged in similar schadenfreude, treating the book as *prima facie* evidence of liberalism's aloofness.

"It was so completely taken for granted that Trump would completely wipe away the Obama presidency that the existence of this book was itself a punchline," Chait recalled. "It was like, 'You poor, sad man.'"

Months later, Chait looks far more prescient. Though Trump is president and Republicans control both houses of Congress, the Obama legacy, to an unexpected degree, has endured.

The failed effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, after a seven-year commitment to that principle, was just the latest sign of this. Trump has left the president's signature foreign policy achievement – the Iran nuclear deal – in place. He's offered no indication of a serious desire to undo the thawing of relations with Cuba, either. Though he has weakened workplace protections for the LGBTQ community, he has largely accepted the advancements made on gay rights, and publicly declared same-sex marriage settled law. He has indicated a desire to undo Dodd-Frank regulatory reform. But a wholesale overhaul no longer seems to be a pressing priority. He's taken a hard-line stance on immigration while still preserving Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program – a protection for the so-called Dreamers that Trump had pledged to ax. He's introduced harsh new

screening guidelines for refugees but has found his attempts rebuffed by the courts so far.

There are areas, of course, where major breaks have occurred: the authorization of the Keystone pipeline and the scuttling of the Trans Pacific Partnership free trade agreement, to name a few. But on matters like infrastructure investment and lowering prescription drug prices, Trump seems more likely to adhere to Obama's legacy than depart from it.

Veterans of the past administration say they aren't particularly surprised. Though the Obama legislative portfolio may not have been particularly popular in the moments of passage, officials always felt comfortable in its longevity. Legislative progress, they figured, is as tough to unravel as it is to put together primarily because it shifts the voters' frame for the role government plays.

"I always believed that the Affordable Care Act was going to be harder to get rid of than Republicans and the pundit class thought post-election because it is harder to take a benefit away than to give it," said Dan Pfeiffer, Obama's longtime adviser. "We are seeing that, despite Trump winning, the terms of the political debate have turned in Obama's direction. The debate going forward is how to give people health care and the problem is conservatives don't have an argument."

CARLOS BARRIA / REUTERS

The notion that Trump would move swiftly and effectively to erase the Obama legacy was far-fetched to begin with. Every opposition-party presidential candidate campaigns on undoing the past administration's record only to find that the intricacies of governance don't lend themselves to that vision.

Barack Obama himself didn't close the prison at Guantanamo Bay, or fully end the war in Iraq, or undo all of George W. Bush's tax cuts that he pledged to undo, or break apart the centralization of executive power in the manner he described while on the campaign trail.

And yet, Obama's struggle to scale back Bush-ism was different than the challenges Trump is confronting.

On the foreign policy front, at least, Obama was often tripped up by divided government or geopolitical realities, while Trump appears to have essentially accepted the practicality of keeping the Iran deal in place and letting relations with Cuba continue to improve.

"On our second full day in office we rolled back the executive order on torture and rendition and on the first day there was the now-infamous executive order on GITMO," recalled Ned Price, a former national security spokesman for the Obama administration. "It wasn't like it was empty campaign rhetoric. In this case, there was a lot said on the campaign trail and it was divorced from the reality of governing."

Domestically, Trump has used executive action more aggressively to undo Obama-era gains. He's rolled back federal standards for schools, rescinded requirements that top federal contractors disclose labor violations, reopened the Justice Department's use of private prisons, and reversed a rule that prohibited some people with mental health problems from buying guns.

And then there are the changes to environmental policy, where Trump has made his greatest inroads. Early action included letting mountaintop miners dump waste in nearby waterways and allowing the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider strict fuel efficiency standards. An executive order signed on Tuesday instructed the EPA to roll back Obama's Clean Power Plan, in addition to paving the way for coal leasing on federal lands, the rewriting of limits on methane emissions, and the removal of climate changes as a mandatory consideration in policymaking. Though Trump has not yet formally withdrawn from the landmark Paris Climate accord (one of Obama's signature achievements), he will make it effectively impossible for the United States to meet the accord's benchmarks.

And yet, even on this front, Obama's legacy seems stronger than initially foreseen. There is the matter of the courts, which have already directed the EPA to act on its finding that climate change is a threat to human health, and will undoubtedly be hearing cases soon challenging Trump's actions. And there is also the cumbersome rule-making processes that will end up delaying some of Trump's directives, potentially for years.

The Obama administration had to contend with these hurdles as well. But over the course of eight years they were able to make advancements on climate policy, and they did so precisely through the grunt work of governance that the Trump administration does not yet seem to fully appreciate.

"I would call it 'the triumph of rigor,'" said Patrick Gaspard, Obama's former political director. "Rigor matters. As does the ability to convince even those who voted against you that your approach was governed by a fierce integrity."

"Too much is made of dealmaking and going with gut," he added. "Obama had an informed decisiveness that contained the passion of those in trenches with him and the anxieties of those who feared change. That's the weatherproofing on his policy legacy."

CARLOS BARRIA / REUTERS

Donald Trump unveiling executive actions to undo Obama's environmental policies.

Of course, there's still plenty of time for Trump to rip apart the Obama legacy in a fashion he promised. And not everyone assumes that he'll be content to let matters like health care reform, or the Iran deal, or refugee policy simply remain in place and move on.

"I assure you, I stand by my Chait review," Domenech told The Huffington Post.

But the likelihood has clearly grown that Trump will end up taking a more nuanced approach, that he'll work within the Obama governing framework instead of trying to dismantle it. On health care, already his administration is talking about working with Democrats to reform Obamacare, while House Republicans have begun looking at ways to fund a provision of the law that they previously sued the Obama administration to end.

"I had a book that seemed to be saying the opposite of what people felt at the time. It ran into that timing problem of people looking for an explanation of the opposite of what I was trying to explain. But it has become more apparent that it was correct," said Chait. "I think it is going, in some ways, better than I predicted at the time."

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